

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 1-2 as follows:

1. (AMENDED) A method of bonding metal plates comprising steps of:

applying [a] first and second shearing [blade] blades of specific shape onto respective both sides of overlapped metal plates and then, [while] shearing the metal plates by moving the first and second shearing blades so as to sandwich the overlapped portion; and

forming a bonded portion by making use of the deformation of each sheared surface to be generated during the shearing process;

wherein the bonded portion or bonded surface of the bonded portion is formed in an oblique direction inclined with respect to the thickness direction of the metal plates.

2. (AMENDED) A method of bonding metal plates according to Claim 1; wherein the inclination angle of the bonded portion or bonded surface is [75°] 75 degrees or less.